

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Mackenzie Sheldon. I am a student from East Hartford.

I stand in support of S.B. No. 284: “AN ACT PROVIDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS,” with clear language that extends eligibility to all HUSKY programs to all CT residents, regardless of immigration status.

I’ve always lived in East Hartford but I have family in five different towns in Connecticut. While I’ve always had access to healthcare, I’ve seen firsthand how important it is. Passing this bill would create tremendous positive change in our state and community.

Healthcare should be provided to everyone, especially during a pandemic. Harvard Health Publishing in Harvard Health Medical School states, “Although the risk of serious illness or death from COVID-19 increases steadily with age, younger people can get sick enough from the disease to require hospitalization. And certain underlying medical conditions may increase the risk of serious COVID-19 for individuals of any age.” (Covid-19 Basics, 2022). I couldn’t imagine worrying about my healthcare if I were to be hospitalized for Covid-19 as a teenager, or any age for that matter.

Hospitalizations from Covid-19 still occur from ages 8-18, but undocumented people wouldn’t be able to receive coverage should they need this medical attention. While we are nearing the end of the pandemic and cases are down in Connecticut, diseases, infections, and accidents are still present and still may require someone to get medical attention. I truly feel that healthcare is essential for everyone in Connecticut and this bill needs to be passed.

I support S.B. No 284, with clear language to extend current HUSKY eligibility rules to all CT residents, regardless of immigration status, and I ask the committee to support this legislation.

Thank you for your time,
Mackenzie Sheldon

Harvard Medical School. (2022, January 26). *Covid-19 basics*. Harvard Health. Retrieved March 7, 2022, from <https://www.health.harvard.edu/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-basics#:~:text=Yes%2C%20they%20do,individuals%20of%20any%20age>